

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for decreasing the amount of mature sterol regulatory element binding proteins and cholesterol synthesis in a human cell of a subject having a disorder characterized by an elevated level of mature sterol regulatory element binding proteins and elevated cholesterol synthesis comprising contacting the human cell with an agent that specifically inhibits de novo synthesis of ceramide in the cell, so as to thereby decrease the amount of mature sterol regulatory element binding proteins and cholesterol synthesis in the human cell, wherein the human cell is a hepatocyte or an adipocyte and the disorder is a lipid disorder or Hereditary Sensory Neuropathy, Niemann Pick Disease Type A and Niemann Pick Disease Type B.
- 2-5. (Canceled)
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell is a hepatocyte.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell is an adipocyte.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent specifically inhibits the activity of an enzyme which catalyzes part of the de novo ceramide pathway.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the enzyme is serine-palmitoyl transferase or ceramide synthase.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent inhibits the expression of an enzyme which catalyzes part of the

*de novo* ceramide pathway.

11. (Canceled)
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of (a) myriocin; (b) cycloserine; (c) Fumonisin B1; (d) PPMP; (e) compound D609; (f) methylthiodihydroceramide; (g) propanolol; and (h) resvaratrol.
13. - 49. (Canceled)
50. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the disorder is a lipid disorder.
51. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein the lipid disorder is hypercholesterolemia, hypertriglyceridemia, combined familial hyperlipidemia, obesity, type I diabetes, type II diabetes, alcoholism, metabolic syndrome, syndrome X, hypertension or cardiovascular disease.
52. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the disorder is Hereditary Sensory Neuropathy.
53. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the disorder is Niemann Pick Disease Type A.
54. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the disorder is Neimann Pick Disease Type A and wherein the subject is a heterozygous carrier of Niemann Pick Disease Type A.
55. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the disorder is Niemann Pick Disease Type B.
56. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the disorder is Niemann Pick Disease Type B and wherein the subject is a heterozygous carrier of Niemann Pick Disease Type A.